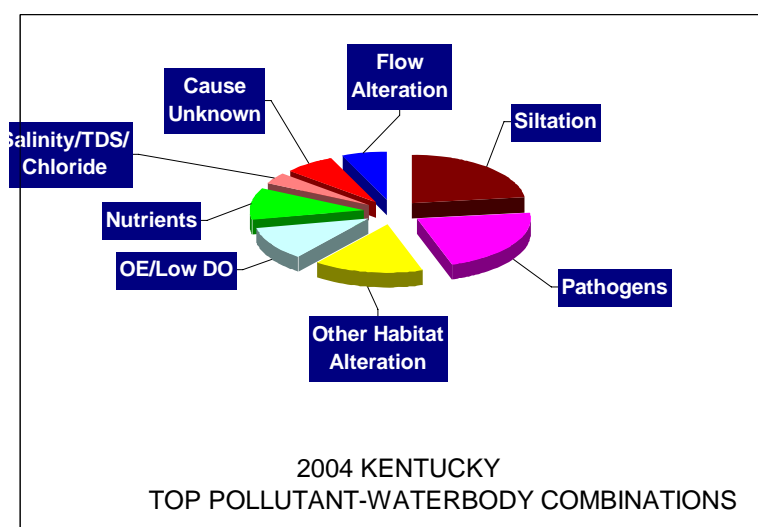


SEDIMENT as a Problem in our Waterways

The Clean Water Act and Stormwater Permits



Welcome to the first **Get the Dirt Out** pilot program in Kentucky! Volunteers will be trained using the new Kentucky Field Guide pictorial to Best Management Practices and the Site Report Card to look at different critical aspects of Erosion and Sediment Control on construction sites and will work with municipal stormwater inspectors in Bowling Green and Warren County to report their findings. Our goal for the program is to help state and local inspectors limit the amount of sediment impairing Kentucky's streams.



Why? Sediment is the largest source of water pollution in Kentucky and one of the largest in the nation. Sixty-eight streams in the Green River basin alone were listed in 2004 as impaired because of siltation.

Sediment is a problem for drinking water intakes, smothers aquatic life and can endanger recreational uses of the water. Rather than simply measure sediment after it enters our streams – let's work to keep it out of the streams all together! This program is designed to help do exactly that- "**Get the Dirt Out**".

UNDERSTANDING STORMWATER PERMITS

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, more commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA), is the basic federal law for controlling water pollution in the United States. Although the original act dates back to 1948, the Clean Water Act, the source of modern water pollution control law, was largely shaped by 1972 amendments, overhauling the entire water pollution control system.

What the CWA Regulates

In order to protect and restore our nation's waterways, the CWA prohibits the discharge of any pollutants into "waters of the United States" unless the polluter has a permit issued under the CWA. Even if the discharger has a permit, however, the CWA says the conditions of the permit should be strict enough to "protect the public health or welfare" and "enhance the quality of water."

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM [NPDES] PERMITS

What is the NPDES Program?

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System is a permit-based program designed to regulate the discharge of pollutants into U.S. waters. This program is one of the principal operating mechanisms of the Clean Water Act and the foundation of water pollution prevention and control in the United States. Section 402 of the Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters of the United States unless the discharger has an NPDES permit.

A point source is a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance of pollution (e.g. a pipe, ditch, etc.). Anyone discharging pollutants into the nation's waters without a permit or in violation of a valid permit is breaking the law.

In Kentucky these permits are usually referred to as *Kentucky* Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) permits.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE GENERAL PERMIT NPDES GENERAL PERMIT

When is a Permit Required?

State and national regulations require a permit whenever there are construction activities that disturb a land area of one acre or greater, or tracts of less than one acre that are part of a larger overall development with a combined disturbance of one acre or greater.

The city of Bowling Green has regulations requiring a permit for a disturbance or construction greater than 750 sq feet. See Bowling Green Ordinances, Chapter 21-2.03 for details.

Inspections

The Permit also requires inspections by the contractor on the following schedule:
Once a week (qualified personnel) & within 24 hours of each ½ inch rain event, the following areas must be inspected:

- o Disturbed areas that have not undergone final stabilization
- o Structural control measures to ensure they are operating correctly
- o Outfall locations

The Erosion Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) must be revised and new measures implemented within 7 days if based on the inspection, the controls in place are not adequate. A report of the inspections must be prepared and retained on site.

For more details see the Kentucky Stormwater General Permit (available on the Kentucky Division of Water web site @ www.water.ky.gov). Look for permit KYR10000_SW_Construction.